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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Fee for electric vehicle charging on council slate

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – This Monday, the Agawam City Council will decide whether or not to charge for the use of electric vehicle charging in public locations.

Electrical vehicle charging stations are located in seven places in town. Three were installed a couple of years ago, and four

more, paid for by a grant, were installed last year.

Mayor William Sapelli is proposing to charge \$1 per kilowatt hour of power charged into an electric vehicle at all public charging stations, the purpose being to help self-sustain the use of the stations.

According to the ordinance filed by Sapelli, the long-term plan for electric vehicle charging

stations is to charge the general public for use of the stations in order to pay for the costs of maintaining the system.

Much like the sewer system or water system, there are costs associated to paying for the electric vehicle charging “infrastructure.”

Sapelli’s \$1 per kilowatt hour charge would generate enough revenue to cover the costs of the stations. The ordinance states

revenue is needed for maintenance of the stations themselves, the cost of the electricity a vehicle receives, and the cost of being subscribed to a network that provides electricity for the charging stations.

Sapelli stated the Town of Easthampton charges twice what he is proposing, \$2 per kilowatt hour for use of one of their electric vehicle stations. West Spring-

field only has one station in town and does not charge for its use.

The City Council created a revolving fund two years ago for the purposes of collecting charging fees in order to administer the program and pay for any repair costs.

It is not known if the town plans to add more charging stations throughout the community.

CHARGING | page 2

Back on the ice



Agawam ice hockey player Kaden Grover competes during the Brownies’ game against East Longmeadow last Saturday at Olympia Ice Center. Agawam is active again in high school sports action. More photos, page 8) PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

Numbers up, but Phase 1 vaccines making way through town

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The town remains in the red and is consider “high-risk” for COVID-19 spread, and the Department of Public Health numbers were higher than last week.

One number that has increased, however, are the number of total cases in town, which is now at 1,922 since the beginning of the pandemic.

More than two-thirds of the total cases in Agawam have occurred in the last 3.5 months.

The number of cases in long-term care facilities has seemed to

have leveled off, and only stands at 338 overall. There have been 245 recoveries and 338 deaths.

More than two-thirds of the total cases in Agawam have occurred in the last 3.5 months.

There are only nine active cases where individuals are on isola-

tion. There are 129 more cases among the community at-large. There has been an increase in cases of individuals ranging in ages from 30-59. The town’s health department is reporting as of last Thursday, there are 20 active cases among residents ages 30 to 39, 21 cases among residents ages 40 to 49, and 23 cases among residents ages 50 to 59. The 50 to 59 age range currently has the most active cases.

Outside of nursing facilities, there have only been six known COVID-19-related fatalities.

The Department of Public Health reported last Thursday

VACCINES | page 2

Fire department launches smoke safe initiative

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – At a press conference last Friday, Jan. 22, Fire Chief Alan Sirois announced a Smoking Cessation of Smoke Safe Initiative to help combat the option of home fires from cigarettes.

Last June, a resident was trapped in their home after an improperly disposed cigarette butt started a fire in the adjoining garage. Then just a couple of weeks ago, Jan. 18, another resident, Shirley Dearborn was trapped in her home after smoking in bed with medical oxygen. On both occasion firefighters went into the structures to save the residents, but both were lost.

Sirois expressed his sincere

apologies on their loss, and is working to deploy recourses and information to help cigarette smokers quit or smoke safely.

“The tragic loss of Mr. Sokolowski and Ms. Dearborn represent the only two fatal structure fires in Agawam in over 25 years,” Sirois said. “These terrible incidents have commonalities, cigarettes and a lack of functioning smoke detectors in the home.”

He also said that in 2019 smoking fires were the leading cause of fire deaths in Massachusetts, causing 21% of all home fire deaths.

The Agawam Fire Department is partnering with the towns Health Department, IT Department, Media Department, Mayor’s Office, Housing Authority, the

American Red Cross, Rocky’s Ace Hardware, and other community members to launch a smoking cessation and safe smoking initiative. The focus will be to encourage the cessation of smoking, and safer smoking practices through outreach, education, and the leveraging of existing resources.

Sirois is working with the IT Department to produce a fact sheet page on the town website, and the Media Department will be putting together a public service announcement to broadcast on the town’s public access channel.

The chief is teaming with the Senior Center and Housing Authority for targeted outreach to those they serve.

SMOKE | page 2



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Eucharistic Adoration at St. John’s

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

Vocalist performing at drive-thru supper

AGAWAM – Local outstanding vocalist Joe Saimeri will be the featured outdoor vocalist at the drive-thru supper on Friday, Feb. 12 from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Agawam Congregational Church parking lot drive thru.

“It will be exciting to sing in whatever the weather will be on the 12th,” said Mr. Saimeri. If there is a snowstorm, the event will be moved to the 13th at the same time.

Songs of love like “Love Me With All Your Heart,” “It’s Not Unusual, Lady,” and more, will be heard by those waiting in their cars to drive thru to pick up their suppers catered by Partners Restaurant.

Saimeri has sung for a Bright Nights Opening, at the Log Cabin, MGM, Aqua Turf, and more.

Hailing from West Springfield, Saimeri will be performing some of his favorite American Songbook love songs in honor of the Valentine’s weekend.

For more information, contact the church at 413-786-7111 or 413-530-8000.



Joe Saimeri will perform at the Agawam Congregational Church drive-thru supper on Feb. 12. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tenaska, Berkshire Power accepting college scholarship applications

AGAWAM – Tenaska and Berkshire Power Company, LLC are sponsoring \$4,500 in academic scholarships for college-bound Agawam High School seniors again this year.

Tenaska, one of the leading independent power producers in the United States, is the owner of Berkshire Power Company, LLC and its 229-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fueled power plant in Agawam. Tenaska manages scholarship programs in communities where its generating facilities are located. To date, more than \$800,000 in scholarships have been given out to roughly 900 students across the United States.

Since the Berkshire scholarship was initiated for the 2018-2019 school year, \$9,000 in scholarships have been awarded to six students.

Agawam High School students graduating in spring 2021 who will be attending a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution may apply. Scholarship applications are available through school guidance counselors. Completed applications must be submitted no later than Feb. 12. Winners will be announced in the spring. Three \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded.

“As a continued proponent of education, Tenaska is proud to support the success of these Agawam High School seniors,” said Robert Bell, plant manager at Berkshire Power Company.

A committee at Tenaska’s headquarters will select the college-bound seniors to receive the scholarships. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate that they are prepared for college study, have good character and rank in the top 50 percent of their class.

The Berkshire plant generates power for the ISO New England market, the regional transmission organization that serves six New England states, including Massachusetts. At 229 MW, the plant can generate enough power for approximately 230,000 homes.

Berkshire Power Company is an important contributor to the local tax base. In 2019, the plant injected more than \$6.3 million in salaries and payments to local contractors and vendors into the area economy.

In addition, employees are active in the community. They volunteered hundreds of hours of service to local community and charitable projects in 2019.

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,000 calls for service from Jan. 18 to Jan. 24 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Thursday, Jan. 21

Joseph James Simon, 37, of 409 Trafton Rd., Springfield, was arrested at 2:19 p.m. on a warrant.

Saturday, Jan. 23

Matthew D. Kulas, 26, of 306 Hermitage Dr., Springfield, was arrested at 9:01 a.m. on a straight warrant.

CHARGING ■ from page 1

The proposal is already generating opposition from some residents in town who believe charging such a large fee will discourage electric vehicle use and be counter productive in helping the environment.

Jesse Caulson and Susan Grossberg both are planning to make lengthy public comments to the city council when it holds a public hearing on Feb. 1. Both have submitted letters to the editor contained in this week’s edition of the Agawam Advertiser News (see page 4).

The Agawam City Council meeting, which is streamed live and also on public access Channel 15, will begin at 7 p.m. Check with the town website to see how to join the public meeting to call in and have comments heard on the issue.

Because it is an ordinance change, it will require a two-thirds vote, or eight votes of the council, to pass. It also goes through two readings, or votes for passage.

VACCINES ■ from page 1

Agawam’s positive test rate had increased to 8.31 percent. Agawam’s average daily case rate per 100,000 people is currently 83.2, also a rise from last week.

Despite the high-risk status, students have been able to return to hybrid learning in the Agawam Public Schools, and sports teams have been able to begin playing games. Boys and girls basketball, as well as swimming and ice hockey have all played contests during the past week.

Vaccines have also started to make their way into Agawam. The Atrium recently had a vaccine clinic for its residents and staff and more long-term care facilities in town will be getting its first round of vaccines. There is either 21 or 28 days between vaccine doses depending on what vaccine, the Moderna or Pfizer, is administered.

First responders are also being vaccinated as well.

On Monday, the town’s health department gave the following update about the next phase of vaccine distribution. It states:

“The Health Department will continue to receive vaccines and Phase two of the State’s vaccination plan should go into effect the second to third week of February. Registration for Phase Two will be made available sometime in early February for vaccination clinics that will be held on the third and fourth weeks of February. More information on how to register for these clinics will be made available on the town’s website, Facebook, robo calls and other media outlets as we draw closer to the vaccination clinics.”

SMOKE ■ from page 1

“We’re pretty busy but I’m dedicating as much time and resources to this program as possible, because it’s important,” Sirois said. “We want to encourage people to quit, but for those who can’t kick the habit we want to make sure they don’t smoke in bed, and when the dispose of their cigarettes to do it properly.”

There is also an effort to help people quit smoking for their health and for the health of others, whether it’s family or the community. For those who wish to quit, the community will have outreach and information to help. Within the next week or so both the town website information page and the PSA on public access will be available. For those who don’t want to quit; Sirois and those helping the initiative ask that you smoke as safely as possible.

That includes keeping smoke detectors installed in your home, and checking them every six months.

Given the recent incident, it is important to never smoke in bed and try not to most inside as much as possible, smoke outside to keep your home’s air clean. Always dispose of cigarette butts in an appropriate receptacle, and make sure that receptacle in emptied on a regular basis and no other waste goes into it or an ashtray. And always put out a cigarette all the way, every time. In addition to the cessation and the initiative, the Fire Department is teaming up with American Red Cross to distribute smoke detectors to families in need, and people should look for more information on the town’s website within the next upcoming week.

Sirois shared that open burning session for fires outdoors has begun from Jan. 15 to May 1, though in order to burn people still need a permit. For more information and to fill out a permit, people can check out the Fire Department’s page on the town website.

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Please place your order by Thursday, February 4th. Pick up on Sunday, Feb 7th from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Take home, heat + ENJOY!

HCC Women's Leadership Series returns Jan. 27

HOLYOKE – Luz Lopez, executive director of MetroCare of Springfield, and Annamarie Golden, director of Community Relations for Baystate Health, will be the featured presenters Jan. 27 for the first Holyoke Community College Women's Leadership Luncheon Series of 2021.

The Spring Women's Leadership Luncheon Series will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m. over Zoom on the last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April and May.

Once a month, participants will join a group of women leaders to discuss current issues and ideas to help their leadership development. They will also have the opportunity to form a supportive network of women leaders to help navigate their careers.

The theme of the first session is "Compassion Fatigue."

"I think many of us are feeling exhausted from all the work and life adjustments we've had to make in 2020," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of Business, Corporate and Professional Development. "There couldn't be a better time to get together with a small group of like-minded women to get feedback and



Luz Lopez, executive director of MetroCare of Springfield. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Annamarie Golden, director of Community Relations for Baystate Health will be the featured presenters at the first Women's Leadership Luncheon of 2021.

professional support for the new year. Whether you're at the beginning or middle of your career, this is a great opportunity to boost your outlook and skills."

Each lunch-time event will feature two presenters leading discussions on different topics:

Jan. 27: "Compassion Fatigue" – Lopez and Golden.

Feb. 24: "Maintaining Power and Grace with Glass Ceilings" – Lynn Turner, coach and business strategist, Clear Vision Alliance, Inc.; Moe Belliveau, executive director, Easthampton Chamber of Commerce.

March 31: "Women's Leadership from a Male Perspective" – Presenters TBD

April 28: Topic and presenters TBD

May 26: "Leading Through Change" – Margaret Tantillo, executive director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts; Jess Roncarati-Howe, program director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts.

Sessions are \$20 each. The full five-session series is \$50. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

To register, please go to: hcc.edu/leadership-luncheons

Legislators address concerns about Soldiers' Home

Headline: HOLYOKE – Last Thursday, the state legislature's Special Oversight Committee on the Holyoke Soldiers' Home held a virtual public hearing for administration officials and staff to directly testify. Senator John Velis, who represents the city of Holyoke and sits on the committee, stated that the hearing was an opportunity to bring up concerns and learn more about how to improve the Home.

"It is clear that staffing and oversight problems at the Home have existed for a long time. I have heard many concerns from families and staff directly, and it was critical to bring these issues up," said Senator Velis. "The goal is to figure out how we can address these problems going forward so a tragedy like last spring never happens again."

Major General Gary Keefe, who was recently named the new Chair of the Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees, was among those who testified in front of the committee. General Keefe is the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard and was in charge of the guardsmen who were deployed to the Home in March to respond to the outbreak.

General Keefe said that when he first arrived at the Home at the end of March, "it was bedlam." Responding to a question about the chain of command at the Home, the General stated that a standardization of policies and regulations at the Home is badly needed.

One of the first to testify was the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Marylou Sudders. After a series of questions regarding staffing levels and administration positions at the facility, the Secretary noted that they are continuing to work to improve staffing levels and that recruitment is always a challenge.

In a comment to the Secretary, Senator Velis said that families have continued to report that staffing shortages at the Home have contributed to visitation problems. "All these families want to do is see their loved ones. The isolation that COVID-19 has brought upon these Veterans is terrible, and I am worried about the impact this time period will have on their mental health."

Secretary Sudders responded that shutting down visitations last spring and then later this fall again were some of the hardest decisions she has ever had to make. She said that she was hopeful that family visits and socialization with other residents will improve with increased vaccinations and new testing models. She also stated that she has asked Secretary of Veteran Services Cheryl Poppe to come up with a new visitation model for the Home.

Another topic discussed was the recommendations the architecture firm, Payette, has made for a new Soldiers' Home facility. Their plan, which was commissioned by the Baker administration, calls for 180-204 beds for the new Home, a decrease from the pre-COVID capacity of 235 beds.

Senator Velis stressed that the bed projection needs to be increased, mainly because there is no way to accurately predict how many Veterans will rely on the Home in the future. "I would rather be in a position 20 years from now where we've got a few vacancies as opposed to waiting lists where constituents can't get a bed at the Home."

Kevin Jourdain, the former Chair of the Board of Trustees, also testified on Thursday that the number of beds should not be decreased. "We can't predict the next war, the next military conflict. We're supposed to be building a facility for the next 100 years, not for the next 10 years," said Jourdain.

Mr. Jourdain also emphasized the importance of instituting an ombudsman's office at the Home to ensure that residents and families have an confidential and independent resource to reach out to when issues arise. In the FY'2021 budget, an amendment by Senator Velis to provide funding for an ombudsman's office at the Soldiers' Home was successfully adopted. Mr. Jourdain stated that such a position would greatly help to improve oversight of the Home.

The hearing, which lasted from 1PM until just before 7PM, is the first the Committee has held in the new year. A report from the Committee, along with possible legislation, is due by the end of March.

Agawam Public Library announces February activities

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library is open for browsing by appointment on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Call 413-789-1550 to make an appointment. We are open for Grab-and-Go services on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Throughout the month of February the library is offering all sorts of activities for kids & teens. Visit our website for more details: www.agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550.

Feb. 1 to 6

Stick-together puzzle: For all ages

The Agawam Library is pleased to be able to offer online sticker puzzles through Stick Together, while they last. Access the puzzle by going to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Patrons of all ages can put up to 250 stickers on the puzzle per day.

Book bundles: For all ages

Are you stuck in a reading rut? Would you like to try some new authors, or learn something new? Would you like some new books, but don't know where to start? Let us pick some for you!

Request a book bundle on a favorite genre, or maybe one you have never tried!

We will choose books for you based on your answers to some quick questions.

Request a Book Bundle for pickup – use the form at the Agawam Library Children's Page <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Feb. 8 to 13

Krafty Kids: 3D Valentine fishbowl craft kit

For ages 3-5

Preschool children can make a special Valentine craft project. This easy project features two scaly sweethearts swimming in their fishbowl home.

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Ladybug tic-tac-toe For grades K-4

Create a ladybug tic-tac-toe game by following simple directions. Then play tic-tac-toe

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Shrink plastic snowflakes For grades 5-8

Use colored pencils on the rough side or permanent markers on the smooth side – no crayons – to decorate these snowflakes, then cut out the designs. Heat them up, and the designs will shrink to seven times smaller and seven times thicker!

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Stay-at-home Storytime For ages 3-5

We love February! Miss Susan will share some stories about love, and a simple craft on video.

The video will be available starting Feb. 8 at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Limited supplies of the craft will be available beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Valentine decorating For all ages

Collect a Valentine & decorating supplies beginning on Feb. 8 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3. Decorate your Valentine, send us a picture of your finished creation before Feb. 22, at Agawamchildrenslibrary@gmail.com for a chance to win a small prize! Winners will be announced on Feb. 26.

Feb. 15 to 20

Learn magic tricks with Ed Popielarczyk For all ages

There will be a series of short videos available all week featuring the magician Ed Popielarczyk teaching a variety of magic tricks that you can do from home.

The videos will be available starting February 15th at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Mug treats For grades 5-8

Let's have lunch! Join Miss Susan for some ZOOM cooking fun. In February, during school vacation, we will be making soup for lunch. Wednesday Feb. 17, at 12 noon – registration is required.

The Zoom ID and Password will be emailed 1 day before the program.

You will need to provide your own ingredients, and mug. We will provide you with an ingredient list one week before the program.

Feb. 22 to 27

Krafty Kids: Winter cardinal handprint For ages 3-5

Children in preschool can follow Ms Rose as she takes you through the steps to make a wonderful winter themed craft. The video will be available starting Feb. 22 at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on Feb. 22 by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Bird Mosaic For grades K-4

Follow Ms Susan as she takes you through the steps to make a bird mosaic. The video will be available starting February 22nd at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on February 22nd by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Krafty Kids: Bird Origami For grades 5-8

Follow Ms Pamela as she takes you through the steps to make bird origami. The video will be available starting February 22nd at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/>

Limited supplies of this craft will be available beginning on February 22nd by calling 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Song and Signs For babies & their caregivers

Enjoy a short video of Ms. Pamela singing songs and teaching some basic sign language for babies and their caregivers. The video will be posted at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> on Feb. 22.

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Opinion

Indoor seed sowing just like the pros do

My first experience with seed sowing involved an egg carton, some potting soil and a few marigold seeds. I must have been about 10 years old. I can still recall how amazed I was that a live plant could grow from what appeared to be a dried up sliver of straw. I can even conjure up the smell of the moistened egg cartons if I think about it hard enough! Even more enthralling of a memory is the first harvest of flowers a couple of months after my offspring made its way out to the garden.

While it is still too early to start marigolds or even tomatoes indoors, it is the perfect time to study up on the process so that you can be successful. Sure, it involves a bit more than an egg carton and a window sill, but out of it all you'll be rewarded for your hard work with a bounty of blooms or a basket of vegetables or both. Here are a few pointers that I have gleaned from many seasons of starting seeds indoors.

The general idea is to provide a moist, warm environment for the seed to germinate and then a semi-warm, well-lit environment for the plant to grow on. Therefore, props are necessary components if you want to be successful. Previous articles have covered this part of seed-starting in depth, but I'll re-cap the highlights. Invest in some heat mats and set them at 70 degrees to provide bottom-heat. As far as light goes, the window sill won't cut it unless you are extremely diligent about turning the plants many times over the course of the day, and even then, "stretch" is likely to occur. Instead, adjust a "shop light" so that it can be raised and lowered easily. One cool fluorescent bulb and one warm are recommended but two cool work just fine in my experience. Forgo garden soil or even regular potting soil in place of a finely milled seed-starting mix. Sterilize shallow containers of choice in a 10% bleach solution before using them.

Sow teenie seeds on the surface of moist starting mix; small seed can be sown in shallow furrows. Space as best you can by folding an index card, placing the seed in the fold and tapping the card with your finger. Larger seeds can be buried a quarter of an inch apart. Cover with a humidity dome or a clear plastic bag propped up like a tent and place on bottom heat. Mist the soil of surface-sown seeds occasionally. When thoroughly dry, soak the container in a few inches of water; it will absorb moisture like a sponge. Once germination occurs, remove the dome or bag and place the seedlings within a couple of inches of the shop light off of the heat mats. Adjust lights accordingly as growth occurs. Use liquid fertilizer at one-quarter to half-strength after a couple weeks and transplant into small, individual containers or cells after true leaves form.

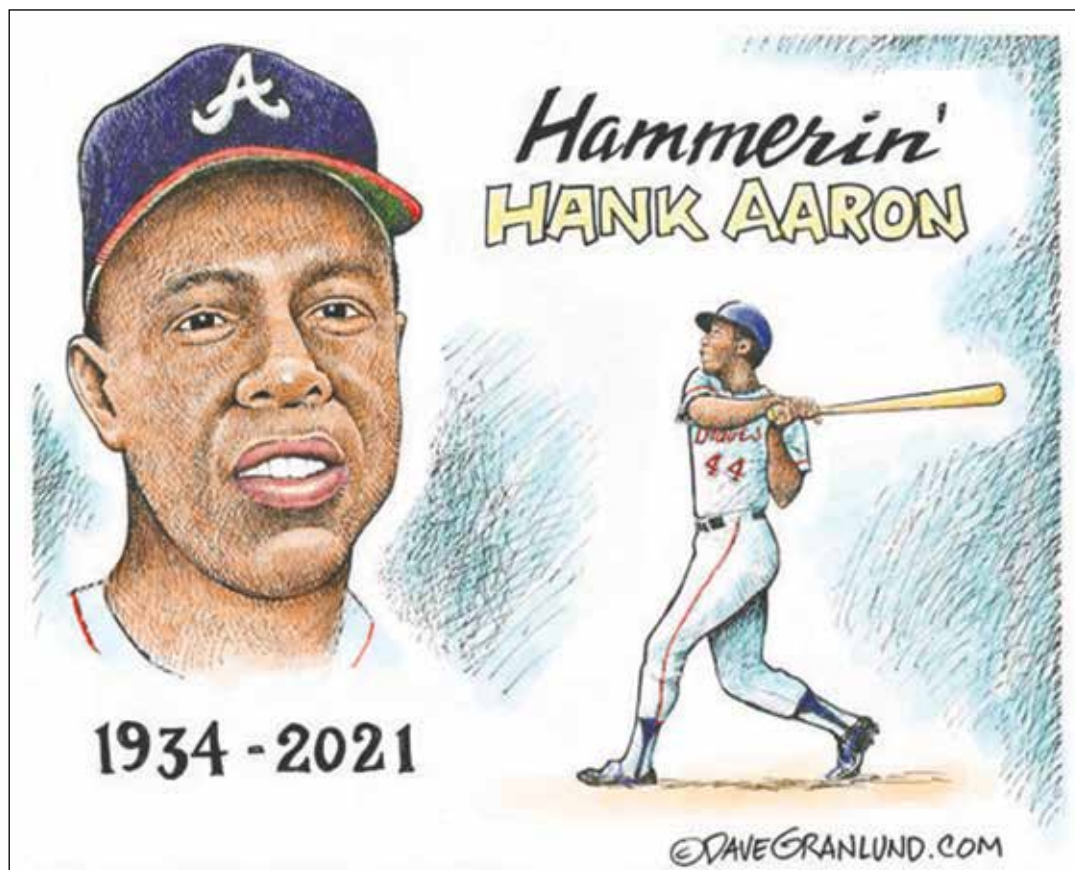
Transplanted seedlings can happily grow under the lights until it approaches the time to plant them outdoors. About a week before Memorial Day, harden off heat lovers such as tomatoes, peppers, basil or marigolds. Place in a sheltered spot and gradually work up to more exposure until finally they are outdoors all day and all night. All of this work may seem like a lot, but the benefits to starting your own seedlings are many, the first of which is the endless number of varieties for sale as seeds versus those available as plants at your local nursery.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



Letters to the Editor

Thank you for putting teachers first

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to our State Senator John Velis and our State Representative Nick Boldyga for helping us in our efforts to prioritize the vaccine to include the teachers in Phase One. They have promised to make the necessary calls, including Governor Baker, to make this happen. I spoke at our

Jan. 11, City Council meeting about this important issue that the schools should reopened as soon as possible. Our students are missing out on valuable face to face learning and social interaction with their peers. In order to accomplish this it would be very helpful if the teachers were offered this vaccine during Phase One. I was pleased to hear the news on Wednesday, Jan. 20,

that many School Boards from various towns in the state have been sending letters with similar requests.

It is important to have the students and teachers back in the classroom in a safe and healthy environment.

Sincerely,
George Bitzas
Agawam City Councilor

New ordinance will not help EV use

Dear Editor:

Agawam: We need environmental leadership, transparency and common sense

You will not find the recently proposed ordinance known as TOR-2021-1 "An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 103 of the Code of the City of Agawam For Electric Vehicle Charging Station Fees" on the town's website, but it is on the Agawam City Council February 1, 2021 meeting agenda. A copy of the ordinance can only be obtained by making a request to a councilmember or the administrative staff. Given the times we live in, for the safety of residents and for transparency of Council decisions, such information should be publicly available and posted on the Town website in a timely manner.

TOR-2021-1 makes no sense. It proposes implementing a fee of \$1.00 per kilowatt (kWh) for the Town's electric vehicle charging stations. It appears at first blush to be a King Solomon-like splitting of the baby between Easthampton's \$2 per hour fee and West Springfield's free use.

But an hour and a kilowatt are very different – one is a measure of time the other a quantity of energy. Apples and oranges.

TOR-2021-1 breaks the bank. According to electricchoice.com, the average cost of electricity in Massachusetts is about .21 cents per kWh. The TOR-2021-1 fee will be five times the cost of plugging in anywhere else in town.

TOR-2021-1 misses the point. The purpose of public charging stations is to fight climate change by supporting the purchase of electric vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Clearly, protecting the environment is important to the Town of Agawam since we have not one, not two, but seven electric vehicle charging stations. And it works. The recent installation of the charging station at the dog park convinced me to purchase a fully electric vehicle. I was concerned that charging the car at home on a standard outlet (a level 1 charger) would only give me 4 or 5 miles for each hour of charging and that I might need

quick access to a faster charge. The level 2 charging station at the dog park -- adding about 25 miles per hour of charging -- was the game-changer for me. But the proposed fee will take the Town in the other direction. It will deter future electric vehicle purchases because it will cost way more for a quick charge at the dog park than to fill a tank with gas.

TOR-2021-1 will contribute to air pollution in the Pioneer Valley, the asthma capital of the country. Deterring electric vehicle purchases with this expensive charging fee will also mean continued emissions of volatile organic compounds such as benzene, sulfur dioxide and other chemicals coming out of a gas combustion engine tailpipe.

I congratulate Agawam on the work done to make public charging stations available. Let your environmental leadership continue to be an example for others to follow by keeping charging stations affordable.

Susan Grossberg

Incentivize electric car use

Dear Editor:

Agawam should incentivize the adoption of technologies for cleaner air and less pollution, which is in conflict with the intent of TOR-2021-1. The proposed TOR-2021-1 increases the electric rate to \$1/kWh to be charged at the municipal EV chargers. This cost of this proposed rate is equivalent to \$9.33/gallon of gasoline.

The chargers in town have been open for some time now, there must be utilization data

available. This should be made public before adoption of the amendment as well as an itemized list of costs the town has incurred as a direct result of the operation of the charges in order to substantiate the fee (electricity, maintenance and administration). An arbitrarily selected value of \$1/kWh with no documentation or substantiation is concerning.

There was clearly no economic consideration in the selection of the charger locations. Instead

of placing the chargers at local businesses where they could have helped drive foot traffic and increase revenue to local businesses, they were placed at free public parks, the library and a senior center, and now trying to charge residents 455% of the grid price per kWh, when the chargers were in part funded by the grant funds is shocking. Implementing a fee on the chargers will eliminate the use of them. Non-EV drivers seeing empty

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Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

LETTER ■ from page 4

chargers all over town will be seen as a waste of money and not something worth investing in because nobody uses them anyway.

Every EV comes with a charger that can be plugged in at home to charge at the grid rate. The price needs to be set lower than this rate to incentivize people to use them. The cost is not astronomical, it’s 50 cents while I walk my dog for 20 minutes at a dog park or pick out a book at the library that I’m eventually going to pay a late fee on that goes back to the town. This is not some big free giveaway. It’s seen as a nice thank you from the town for not contributing to the pollution in our air.

The solar farm on Shoemaker Lane in Agawam generates 1.5 MW of power, which at 2013 electrical rates was estimated to be \$40,000- \$50,000 in energy credits applied to Agawam’s electric bill. What percentage of this energy generation is consumed by the EV chargers?

(source: <http://www.agawam.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/77/Agawam-Solar-Farms---A-Presentation-PDF?bidId=>)

ICE vs EV excise tax comparison:

Excise tax over the first years of ownership showing \$1,000 more paid by an EV owner over the first 4 years that goes directly to the town general fund.

(source: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/motor-vehicle-excise>)

(source: <https://www.caranddriver.com/research/a31544842/how-much-is-an-electric-car/#:~:text=However%2C%20according%20to%20data%20from,decrease%20from%20the%20year%20before>)

The proposed electrical rate is outrageous. Equivalent cost of Gasoline at the proposed \$1/kwh fee: Charge EV @ Home = 60kWh* \$0.22/kwh = \$13.20 / full charge

Charge 60 kWh EV @ Agawam Park = \$60.00 / full charge Gasoline for 180 miles (Chevy Bolt EV range in winter): 6.4 Gallons

Equivalent cost of gasoline from grid at home: \$2.06/ gallon

Equivalent cost of gasoline to \$1/kwh: \$9.38/gallon

TOR-2021-1 proposes making the cost of driving an EV 400% more expensive than a gasoline vehicle. This is the opposite of promoting clean energy and green technology.

In conclusion,

Without a fee:

Agawam continues to have the reputation of promoting green technologies made affordable by power generation at our solar farm.

EV owners who pay higher excise taxes have the chargers available to use and at least partially offsets the cost to the town.

Visitors from other towns might think of Agawam as a charging destination and spend money at local businesses to get food during charging time.

Increased utilization of our public spaces and increased community awareness of EVs.

With a charging fee:

Utilization of EV chargers will decrease significantly (especially above grid rates)

Internal combustion vehicle owners may see them as a failed effort and non-viable.

They will still require maintenance and network access which would lead to the eventual disconnection due to costs being higher than revenue.

Agawam will have demonstrated a prioritization of collecting revenue over green initiatives.

Jesse Clauson



The Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series takes on a Caribbean vibe on Friday, Feb. 5 when the Caribbean island-style sounds of the White-Eyed Lizard Band will be broadcast on the Towns of Agawam’s and Southwick’s public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AGAWAM – The 17th season of the Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series continues virtually on Friday, Feb. 5, with the steel drum/Calypso/Reggae/ island-style sounds of White-Eyed Lizard Band. The performance was previously recorded at the Darcy B. Davis Jr. Bandshell at Agawam’s School Street Park and will be presented on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch” button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick’s TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch Channel 15” button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

This group has performed throughout the region since its founding in 2003. Lead vocalist and drum set player Luke Rodney is originally from Trinidad, the birthplace of the Steel Pan. Kurt Ginter performs on bass, keyboard, and background vocals. On steel pan is Aaron Cote, an internationally acclaimed steel pan composer. You will not want to miss this enjoyable display of musicianship—mark your calendar now.

Production sponsor for White-Eyed Lizard Band is Easthampton Savings Bank. The Agawam Cultural Council

also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, OMG, Inc., and the Southwick Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly “socially distanced” donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Free tax assistance offered through VITA program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413- 263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, “although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. “This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will allow participants to safely drop-off all required tax documents

in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups”.

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State Department of Revenue. If you’ve received a notice form either state of federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O’Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.

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SLICED IN OUR DELI

USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST**\$3⁹⁹** lb

IT'S SOUP TIME

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAK **\$3⁶⁶** lb

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Schools & Youth

Springfield College announces Dean’s List for fall

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean’s List Students for the 2020 Fall Semester:

Megan Crawford for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Crawford has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Bianca Culhane for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Culhane has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Carina Nesen for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Nesen has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Anna Russo for academic excellence for

the 2020 fall semester. Russo has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Caroline Hitchcock for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Hitchcock has a primary major of Health Science.

Nadia Ghareeb for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Ghareeb has a primary major of History.

Pamela Schuler for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Schuler has a primary major of Human Services.

Jarrod Lemke for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Lemke has a primary major of Physical Education and Health/Family and Consumer Science.

Locals make Dean College Dean’s List

FRANKLIN – Dean College is pleased to announce the students that have earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College. Brandon Richardson and Arianna St. Peter, both of Feeding Hills, made the list.

Grasso makes Dean's List

NEWTON – Jenna Grasso of Agawam was named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts. Grasso was named to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the fall semester. Students who receive this honor have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Reminders:

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges.

core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty among students and families about nearly all aspects of the college admission process, including the role of standardized testing. We were scheduled to host testing in November, but did not feel it was prudent to have students from “red” area and states in our building. We looked into hosting school day testing for just Agawam students, but the next available date is in March. Due to the cancellation of SAT and ACT testing dates, more than 1,630 US colleges and universities announced they are moving to a test-optional policy, and more will surely follow. By going test-optional, institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions this year. Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, “Does test optional really mean test optional?” The answer, simply put, is: YES.

Please keep in mind that some colleges may require SAT or ACT scores for certain majors and/or the awarding of merit money. We encourage you to contact any schools that are of interest to you (website, email, or phone) to confirm that test scores are not required for your intended major and/or the awarding of merit money.

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you’re headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can’t access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

Westfield State University’s Banacos Academic Center is hosting hour-long Zoom sessions to address questions that college bound students with learning differences may have. Disability/Accessibility Services staff from the other Massachusetts Universities and a Westfield State Admissions representative will be present. Sessions are capped at 50 sign ups. Students may RSVP at: secure.blueoctane.net/forms/6SCHNXYC2D8H

The last session will occur on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting its first Virtual College Fair on Sunday, Jan. 31 from 1 to 7 p.m. Additionally, there are smaller Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (Mar. 7), Performing & Visual Arts (Mar. 16), Western US (Apr. 10), and Southeastern US (Apr. 20). Students may register at virtualcollegefairs.org

MASSHIRE will be hosting a series of webinars surrounding Exploring Professions in Healthcare. The sessions will be held Jan. 27 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.), Feb. 10 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.) and Feb. 24 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.). Please contact Phylis Gedeon at pgedeon@masshirespringfield.org or 413-858-2818.

Whether you’ve already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, Mar. 7. Please visit cb.org/bigfuturedays to register and learn more!

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges’ websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Applications open to high school seniors and college students studying journalism

Staff report

REGION – The New England Newspaper and Press Association awards up to 10 scholarships each year to aspiring journalists through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England. Applications are open through the deadline of March 12, 2021. Our foundation strives to encourage and support young people who plan to pursue a career in the newspaper industry.

College students or high school seniors who are studying and acquiring work experience that will prepare them to work in the field of journalism are eligible to apply.

For more information contact Linda Conway at l.conway@nenpa.com. To qualify students must:

1. Be a resident of New England.
2. Be a senior in high school planning to attend college the following year or an undergraduate college student studying journalism or a related field.
3. Have a GPA of 3.0 or above.
4. Demonstrate a serious interest in a career in journalism by sending: a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation, and a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication and/or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.
5. Please note: You will be required to sign in to Google to upload documents.
6. The deadline to apply is March 12, 2021.

Movement program offered for area youth

WESTFIELD – The YMCA of Greater Westfield, in collaboration with Baystate Health, is offering the MIGHTY (Moving, Improving, and Gaining Health Together at the YMCA) program; Now enrolling children between the ages of 8 and 10. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MIGHTY, funded by a grant from Kohl’s Cares, is an evidence-based, multi-component pediatric weight management program for children with a body mass index above the 95th percentile. This free program meets twice per month, over a six-month period. During each two-hour session, children and their families engage with exercise specialists, nutritionists and behavioral health workers in classroom instruction and group exercise sessions.

To be eligible for the MIGHTY Program,

participants must be at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index (BMI), provide a medical clearance form signed by their health care provider and attend a registration session, Thursday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. with the child at the YMCA of Greater Westfield. Registration is now open.

Space is limited while adhering to the social distancing guideline. To register, contact YMCA of Greater Westfield, Cindy Agan, Health & Wellness Director, 413-568-8631, cagan@westfieldymca.org.

The YMCA of Greater Westfield is committed to be the leader in improving the quality of life for members of our community by providing cause-driven programs for individuals and families focusing on youth development, on healthy living and on social responsibility.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
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59					60				61		
62					63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Gather a harvest

5. Federal Republic of Germany

8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

11. “The Little Mermaid”

13. The common gibbon

14. Volcanic island in Fiji

15. Mother of Perseus

16. Egg cells

17. Teams’ best pitchers

18. Credit associations

20. Advance

21. Hair styling products

22. Benign tumors

25. Arriving early

30. Called it a career

31. __ Paulo, city

32. Avoid with trickery

33. Easter egg

38. Veterans battleground

41. Lack of success

43. Thing that causes disgust

45. Deep, continuing

sound

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. You might put it in a fire

50. Partner to “oohed”

55. Actor Idris

56. Slippery

57. Plant of the bean family

59. One point north of northeast

60. Patti Hearst’s captors

61. Places to hang clothes

62. Midwife

63. Of she

64. S. Korean statesman

CLUES DOWN

1. Cool!

2. Amounts of time

3. Aboriginal people of Japan

4. Popular veggies

5. Wedding accessory

6. Deep, narrow gorges

7. Dry cereal

8. Competitions that require speed

9. Cain and __

10. Snake sound

12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)

14. Pattern of notes in Indian music

19. Satisfy

23. Misfire

24. Nearsightedness

25. Indicates before

26. Increase motor speed

27. When you hope to get there

28. Indicates position

29. Where rockers perform

34. Substitute

35. __ juris: of one’s own right

36. Earliest form of

modern human in Europe: __-magnon

37. Adult female bird

39. Do away with

40. Lens

41. Flattened appendage

42. Post or pillar in Greek temple

44. A medieval citizen of Hungary

45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

46. Abba __, Israeli politician

47. Sew

48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish-white

53. A way to illustrate

54. College basketball superpower

58. Midway between south and southeast

Springfield Symphony Hall offering virtual lessons



Registration is open for youth orchestra's virtual education. SUBMITTED PHOTO

SPRINGFIELD – The Winter 2021 session of Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestras' live virtual courses for students in grades 6-12 begins February 6th. Designed to enhance skills, foster creativity, and encourage community, the program offers six-week courses led by an exceptional professional faculty in:

Music Composition 1 & 2 with Haneef Nelson
Reading the Signs: An Exploration of Score Study and Repertoire
with Cailin Marcel Manson
Music Theory 1, 2, and 3
with Kirsten Lipkens
Small Ensemble/Group Coaching & Private Lessons
with SSO Professional Musicians

Whether a student is just starting out with their instrument or wishes to take their musical education to the next level, all are welcome to experience these carefully devel-

oped, limited-size virtual classes.

"Until our youth orchestras can safely meet in person, these courses offer an exceptional opportunity for students to keep learning, playing music, and making valuable one-on-one connections with their peers and instructors," said Education Director Kirsten Lipkens. Sarah Bacon, parent of an SSO student who took part in the fall virtual classes agrees: "I'm so happy with this opportunity to keep my child engaged with the SSO music community. The teachers have a deep knowledge of music but also know how to engage the kids and keep things interesting and fun."

Complete information, including course descriptions, syllabi, instructor bios, and registration link, is available at <https://www.springfieldsymphony.org/live-virtual-course-offerings/> or contact Kirsten Lipkens at klipkens@springfieldsymphony.org.

Obituary

Jeanne B. Webster

1929 – 2021

Agawam – Jeanne A. (Bailey) Webster, 91, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2021. A resident of Agawam since 1952, Jeanne was born on April 5, 1929 in Suffield, CT to the late George and Florence (Birge) Bailey. She was a proud, life-long member of the First Baptist Church of Agawam where she was a member and past President of the Music Committee, a member of the Board of Deacons and was a soloist in the Church choir. Jeanne was also a soloist at other area churches over the years and enjoyed playing the piano, as well. Jeanne had many interests, but music was her passion. She was a past President of the Agawam Women's Club, the Tuesday Morning Music Club of Springfield, and the former Arts Club of Springfield. Jeanne was also a member of the Chromatic Club of the Springfield area. For fifty years she was a Trustee of the Captain Charles Leonard House in Agawam. Jeanne was predeceased by her husband of 70 years, Ralph L. Webster, who passed away in 2017 and her siblings Harold, Barbara, Douglas, Gwendolyn, Carlton, and Lois. She is survived by her three loving sons and their wives Lawrence (Ronie) of Wilbraham; Gary (Jean) of Orleans, MA; Russell (Diane) of Feeding Hills; grandsons Tyler of Los Angeles and Adam (Hayley) of Arlington, MA; a brother Kendall of East Dover, VT and many nieces and nephews. Burial for Jeanne will be private at the family's request in the Agawam Center Cemetery. A Celebration of Life memorial service will take place at a later date. The Webster Family would like to thank the staff at Vero Health Care of Wilbraham for their compassion and care of their mother during her short time there. The Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home is handling all arrangements. Memorial contributions may be sent to the First Baptist Church of Agawam, The Captain Charles Leonard House in Agawam, or Shriners Hospital in Springfield.



Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn't do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been determined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

STCC invests in new charging stations for electric vehicles

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College has installed two electric vehicle (EV) charging ports in one of the campus' parking lots as part of an effort to reduce fossil fuel emissions and encourage green energy.

The charging stations are in operation and available for use by the public as well as students, faculty and staff at STCC. Each charging station can accommodate two vehicles.

"STCC is installing them now because we were lucky enough to participate in an Eversource Energy incentive opportunity which made them feasible," said Thomas Therrien, director of operations for the Facilities Department at STCC. "We're thrilled to have these charging stations on campus. It's part of STCC's commitment to protecting the climate and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Eversource paid for the infrastructure installation through its EV Make Ready program, and since STCC is in an environmental justice community, Eversource also covered the cost of the EV chargers. STCC will pay an annual service fee.

"Environmental justice community" is a term to describe situations where multiple factors, including both environmental and socioeconomic stressors, may affect health and the environment.

"We are proud to help Springfield Technical Community College offer EV charging to its students, faculty and staff," said James Cater of Eversource. "As a catalyst for clean energy, we welcome the opportunity to help our customers make progress toward their sustainability goals by installing EV charging stations."

The charging stations feature a full motion color LCD display that instructs drivers how to use them. Stations are located in Lot A in front of Garvey Hall, which is accessible from Federal Street.

STCC is participating in Eversource's EV Make Ready Program, which has been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities to encourage development of an electric vehicle marketplace and to facilitate deployment



STCC has added charging stations for electric vehicles. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and use of electric vehicles throughout Massachusetts.

STCC's actions drew praise from Tanisha Arena, executive director at Arise for Social Justice, a Springfield-based organization that advocates for low-income people. Part of its mission is to push for environmental justice.

"I think it is an important step for the organization because it's about ease of access, for one," Arena said. "If folks with electric vehicles know they can charge their cars on campus, it brings them to the area and perhaps they will spend more time in the city patronizing small businesses."

Arena added, "Springfield is designated as an environmental justice community and has a failing air quality grade from the American Lung Association. More than half of our residents have asthma or other respiratory issues. A reduction in emissions is good for all of us."

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SPORTS

HOCKEY

Brownies hockey returns to the ice



The Agawam High School ice hockey team took on East Longmeadow at Olympia Ice Center last Saturday, falling 5-1. Nickolas Shea scored the lone goal for Agawam in the first period. Brandon Prior was credited with the assist. Agawam is 0-2 to start the season. A roster for the team was not available as of press time. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports begin

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Winter sports, however abbreviated, have begun for several schools in Western and Central Massachusetts.

While Quabbin got off to a start a bit earlier, several Western Mass. teams caught up with game action beginning last Thursday evening.

Ludlow, Amherst, Agawam, Ware, and Hampden Charter School of Science were all in action with girls and boys basketball.

Hockey also got in on the action over the weekend, though not all of the hockey teams were involved with some schools opting not to participate in the sport.

Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Minnechaug, along with Pathfinder and Palmer, were scheduled to get involved on the action earlier this week, with the game action starting to pick up and teams attempting to play 10 to 12 games during the next five or six weeks, which is what is left of the winter season.

Agawam is scheduled to be in a bubble west of the Connecticut River, including Westfield and



Amherst took the ice to start the regular season last week against Ludlow. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

RACING



The Thompson 300 will take place in October at Thompson Speedway. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Entry forms now available for the Thompson 300

WATERBURY, Conn. — The American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have released the official entry form for the Thompson 300 at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Oct. 9 and 10. More than \$100,000 in projected awards are posted for the return of the historic event as part of the 59th World Series of Speedway Racing.

As previously announced, the 300-lap event will pay the winner a guaranteed minimum of \$20,000. Second place receives

\$7,500 with \$5,000 for third. Everyone who takes the green flag will bring home at least \$1,200. Thirty-six starting positions have been posted with a total of \$85,475 in base purse money.

Lap money is also up for grabs. Every lap sold will award \$50 to the driver who leads that lap. This means up to \$15,000 in lap money and the Thompson 300 winner could pocket up to \$35,000 total.

A Last Chance "B" Feature has been posted as well. This final round qualifier will pay \$1,000 to

Sports

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available. This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session. Sessions will consist of a max of 15

players per field (COVID regulation for the players’ safety).
SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.
The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

WINTER ■ from page 8

West Springfield.
Amherst will matchup with Ludlow, among other teams, and Ware and Hampden Charter mixed up last week, and Ware is set to take on Palmer and Pathfinder in the coming weeks.
Minnechaug and Chicopee Comprehensive are set to match up next week as well. East Longmeadow will also join the mix in that bubble.
In hockey action, Ludlow and Amherst had their first games of the regular season. Ludlow, Agawam, Minnechaug, and other Berry Division teams will be part of a league in the coming season. Most of the teams in that league play their home games at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.
Action at Olympia Ice Center last Saturday included Ludlow and Amherst as well as East Longmeadow and Agawam. All players were observing changes in proto-

col by changing into uniforms and gear in parking lots. Temperatures were cold with an even colder wind chill on Saturday. Players were only allowed to put skates on once inside the arena. The small number of fans allowed to attend games were not allowed to mill around in the lobby, and the extension of benches was completed as well as a fenced-in extension.
At Olympia, if more than one player on a team was sent to the penalty box, they were sent to their team’s bench to serve out the penalty in order to have one player in the box at a time.
The winter season will continue until late February and then Fall 2 is scheduled to begin with some basketball action, indoor track, girls volleyball, and football taking center stage into the first month of the spring.



There is limited action in the region with some schools opting out of the winter season.



Hampden Charter is one of the schools playing this winter.

New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County.
The WMBUA’s first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandem-

ic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow’s classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.
If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.western-massrelics.org>.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

RACING ■ from page 8

win and \$250 to start for teams that do not transfer into the Thompson 300.
“The Thompson 300 is one of the most famous events in Modified racing,” ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. “When Tom Mayberry and I reached out agreement to promote events at Thompson Speedway, Tom’s first idea was to bring back the Thompson 300. Together, we’ve put a lot of work into figuring out how to make it happen. We’re already excited even with the date still nearly nine months away. It’s going to be a must-see event this year and hopefully for years to come.”
The entry form has been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds and www.proallstarseries.com. Teams that register by Thursday, April 15 receive an early-entry discount. The first 26 teams that register will also receive a garage stall for World Series weekend.
Qualifying for the Thompson 300 is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 with the 300-lap main event on Sunday, Oct. 10. An optional practice session is planned for Friday, Oct. 8. More information will be announced over the coming months. All schedules are subject to change.
This year’s Thompson 300 is the first time the event has been held since 2005. Previous winners include Northeast racing legends Richie Evans, Geoffrey Bodine, Ron Bouchard, Jimmy Spencer, Mike Stefanik, Steve Park, Mike McLaughlin, and Ted Christopher.
The return of the Thompson 300 is the finale in the six-race Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series. The opener of the series is the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on April 10 and 11. Some of the top names in

Tour-Type Modified racing have already entered the Icebreaker event, including Keith Rocco, Doug Coby, Bobby Santos III, Ron Silk, Mike Christopher Jr., and Jon McKenney. The series also includes \$5,000-to-win events on June 16, July 7, Aug. 11, and Sept. 15.
Teams that attempt to qualify for all six Outlaw Open Modified Series events will be eligible for provisional starting spots in the Thompson 300. The number of available provisionals is to be determined.
The rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series have been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. Contact Greg Felton at (413) 695-2272 or gt.felton@gmail.com with any Modified tech questions.
For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.
For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.
For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsonspeedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

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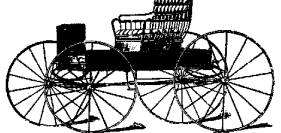
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The Trial Court
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Hampden Division
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(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0073EA**

**Estate of:
Marjorie B. Barr
Also Known As:
Marjorie Barr
Date of Death:
November 13, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Terrance J. Large** of Grantham, NH, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Terrance J. Large of Grantham, NH has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the admin-

istration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 01/28/2021

Legal Notice of Private Sale

Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on February 04, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

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**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0197CA**

**In the matter of:
Bernadette Ann
Beaudry-Zielinski
aka Bernadette Ann Gomez
aka Bernadette Ann
Carattini
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Bernadette Ann Beaudry-Zielinski, aka Bernadette Ann Gomez, aka Bernadette Ann Carattini of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Bernadette Ann
Beaudry-Zielinski
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/10/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

**WITNESS, Hon.
Barbara M Hyland, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: January 13, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/28/2021**

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Subcommittee will conduct a remote Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm**, in the auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA, on two Eversource petitions for permission to perform work on properties located at South Westfield Street in Feeding Hills as well as Ramah Circle South in Agawam which could include installation of a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property.

Any person wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on these petitions may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using access code 8476635 followed by # sign. Calls must be made at 6:30 pm to provide testimony. This remote public hearing

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will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative Subcommittee

01/28, 02/04/2021



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HELP WANTED

PODIATRY OFFICE 25 to 30 hours a week. Portuguese or Spanish speaking helpful. Medical and computer experience helpful but willing to train the right person. Ludlow (413)589-7287 or email CV to podbill@aol.com

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

REAL ESTATE

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WARM WEATHER IS Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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St. Patrick's Road Race going virtual for 2021

HOLYOKE – If you haven't heard by now, for the second year in a row, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race has been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19.

We certainly didn't come to this decision lightly but in the interest of our participants, volunteers, and our community we have cancelled this year's in person race. We've been looking forward to the race since the cancellation last year, never thinking this pandemic would last this long.

We understand that this isn't a replacement for the real thing but running with 7,000 others right now is not possible, but we will try to make it just as fun! This March we will hold the second Virtual Holyoke St Patrick's Day Road Race. Create your own 10K route (or use ours!) and compete against other runners. We will provide a familiar looking t-shirt, printable custom bib number, free beer, and local giveaways.

Go to <http://racewire.com/register.php?id=11824> for all the details to register.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support over the last year. The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke works tirelessly year-round to make this "Homecoming Weekend" the best one of the year. We look forward to the opportunity to host you on the streets of Holyoke for the 45th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race in March 2022.



You can create your own course for this year's virtual Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



This is the second straight year the race has been postponed.

Third quarter tax bills due Feb. 1

AGAWAM – The third quarter actual real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal year 2021 are due in the Town of Agawam Collector's office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. The town hall is currently closed to the public. Bills may be paid online at www.agawam.ma.us, by mail in the envelope provided or put in one of the two drop boxes that are provided outside the town hall door for your convenience. Third quarter payment notices were mailed Dec. 31, 2020. By law, bills were mailed to owners of record as of Jan. 1, 2020. Any new homeowner or anyone who has not received their real estate or personal property tax bill should contact the Collector's office immediately to obtain the bill amount. The telephone number is (413) 786-0400 extension 8218.

Church consignment shop holding Saturday hours

AGAWAM – Starting Saturday, Feb. 6, the Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be extending its hours to include the first Saturday of each month. While our Wednesday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., our Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please come on by and check out our shop. We carry a variety of items including clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, toys, household and gift items.

Due to Covid -19 restrictions and workplace safety standards, we ask that patrons please adhere to our face coverings and sales space occupancy requirements. Capacity limitation signs are posted outside each sales room indicating the number of people allowed. To best maintain safe social distancing, a traffic flow pattern has been added and separate doors to enter and exit our facility are marked.

For future news and information, especially on our popular \$5 bag sale taking place in late February/early March, please visit our Facebook business page known as The Trading Post Consignment Shop or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

We thank our customers for their continued support, patience, understanding and compliance during this difficult and unprecedented times.

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